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Case Honored

Takes Occasion to Query Role of Intelligence Agency

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HILLSIDE — Sen. Clifford P. Case, R-N.J., last night expressed concern about the "propriety" of certain recent

operations of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The senator, here to accept the John F. Kennedy Memorial Award from Ellin-Unger Postions of the Central Intelligence Agency, said the question of whether

"the agency may be the master rather than servant of national policy" has been raised in the public's mind because of two recent disclosures.

There were the revelations that the CIA agents used the cover of a technical assistance program run by Michigan State University to operate in South Viet Nam, and that a CIA agent, sued for libel in Baltimore, claimed immunity and received the agency's blessing.

Propriety Questioned

"These two developments are but the latest of a series that have prompted many Americans to wonder about the propriety of CIA actions, and the degree to which Congress is or should be involved in supervising the nation's foreign intelligence activities," Case told about 170 persons at the Sinai Congregation Hebrew School and Youth Center.

The senator, terming the entire matter of CIA control by Congress "sensitive in the extreme," said he backed a plan to explore the possibility of increasing the membership of a joint congressional committee which presently maintains a degree of liaison with the agency.

The group is composed of four senior members from the Senate and House Armed Services and Appropriations Committees, men, Case said, "who are primarily military-minded."

Expansion in View

"The possibility of expanding this group to include members of the two committees primarily concerned with foreign affairs is now under discussion," he explained. "As a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, I am glad this is being explored."

Referring to the current series about the CIA in the New York Times, Case said he was glad to see that the "troublesome questions that surround the nation's intelligence effort" are getting attention.

"As members of an open society," he continued, "we do and must demand the fullest possible public access to the public's business. At the same time we are acutely aware that we must not jeopardize the lives of those who serve our country or the nation's security itself."

Case, however, said he disagrees with a proposal to establish a CIA regulatory body similar to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. "This is just not the best mechanism because the problems are different," he said.

"The discussion in which we are now engaged is necessary and useful," the senator declared. "In coming to grips with the controversy over the operations of the CIA, a solution can be found, I am confident, if we persevere, and persevere we must."